

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 PARIS 19793 01 OF 02 071745Z

12
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 /067 W
----- 042549

R 071728Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2724
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 19793

E.O. 11652: GDS
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 19793 01 OF 02 071745Z

TAGS: PFOR, UR, FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH-SOVIET MIXED COMMISSION MEETING:

CONTINUED AMBIGUITY IN FRANCO-SOVIET RELATIONS

REF: PARIS 19138

1. SUMMARY: VICTOR LOUIS ARTICLE AND OTHER INDICATIONS SUGGEST THAT GISCARD'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF AGREEMENT ON ACCIDENTAL USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON OCCASION OF LUNCH FOR FRANCO-SOVIET MIXED COMMISSION MARKING 10TH ANNIVERSARY DE GAULLE'S TRIP TO MOSCOW WAS CONSIDERED PREMATURE BY SOVIETS; AND THAT FRANCO-SOVIET RELATIONS REMAIN RATHER AMBIGUOUS AND EVEN STRAINED. END SUMMARY.

2. QUAI OFFICER-IN-CHARGE SOVIET AFFAIRS SUMMED UP FRENCH-SOVIET MIXED COMMISSION MEETING JUST CONCLUDED IN PARIS IN NOTABLY LOW-KEYED TERMS. SINCE MEETING MARKED 10TH ANNIVERSARY DE GAULLE'S MOSCOW TRIP, PROGRAM WAS MORE SOLEMN THAN USUAL AND LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION ON BOTH SIDE SHADE MORE SENIOR THAN MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN THE CASE (USSR SENT KIRILLIN AND PATOLICHEV BUT NOT KOSSYGIN). MOREOVER, GISCARD OFFERED LARGE ELYSEE LUNCH TO MARK OCCASION, AT WHICH HE REITERATED IMPORTANCE FRANCE ATTACHES TO SOVIET RELATIONSHIP AND (AS REPORTED REFTEL) MADE THE SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT A FRANCO-SOVIET ACCORD ON ACCIDENTAL USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS WAS TO BE CONCLUDED SHORTLY THROUGH AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS. QUAI SAYS SOVIET DELEGATION WAS INFORMED AHEAD OF TIME OF GISCARD'S INTENTION TO MAKE THIS ANNOUNCEMENT. EVEN SO WE ARE TOLD BY QUAI THAT IN HIS SHORT, NOTICEABLY IMPROMPTU LUNCHEON REMARKS KIRILLIN DID NOT RESPOND IN ANY COMMENSURATE SENSE, AND DID NOT EVEN REFER TO THE NUCLEAR ACCIDENT ACCORD AT ALL.

3. SUBSEQUENT TO LUNCH MIDDLE-OF-ROAD AND CONSERVATIVE FRENCH PRESS GAVE HEAVY EMPHASIS TO GISCARD'S ANNOUNCEMENT, GENERALLY ALONG LINES THAT NUCLEAR ACCIDENTS ACCORD TENDED TO SHOW THAT USSR MEDIA CONCERNS OVER CHANGING DIRECTION FRENCH DEFENSE POLICY AND PUBLICATION GENERAL MERY LECTURE, DID NOT SIGNIFY ANY REAL DEPRECIATION FRANCO-SOVIET RELATIONS. EVEN SO THERE WERE OTHER
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARIS 19793 01 OF 02 071745Z

OBSERVERS WHO WONDERED WHY, IF ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACCORD WAS NOT LARGELY FRENCH INITIATIVE AIMED AT SHOWING THAT FRANCO-SOVIET RELATIONS IN GOOD SHAPE, THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS FINALIZING THIS AGREEMENT WAS NOT TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH 10TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCH. MOREOVER, WHY WAS SAUVAGNARGUES TRIP TO MOSCOW NECESSARY WHICH QUAI NOW EXPECTS TO TAKE PLACE IN JULY. LOCAL PUBLIC CONFIRMATION THAT ALL WAS STILL NOT AS IT SHOULD BE IN THE FRANCO-SOVIET WORLD WAS AVAILABLE ONLY TODAY, IN FORM PUNGENT VICTOR LOUIS COMMENTARY IN FRANCE SOIR JULY 8,

ON GISCARD'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF THIS ACCORD.

4. LOUIS BEGINS BY NOTING THAT GISCARD'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF NUCLEAR ACCIDENTS AGREEMENT HAS STILL NOT "FOUND ECHO IN USSR." WHILE LOUIS REFERS TO DOCUMENT WHICH "SHOULD SHORTLY BE SIGNED AS "POSITIVE ELEMENT," THRUST OF PIECE IS SHARP ATTACK ON GISCARD'S ATLANTICISM AND REVISED DEFENSE POLICIES, WHICH HAVE "CAST A SHADOW" ON RELATIONSHIP WHICH THOSE WHO CONGRATULATE THEMSELVES ON 10TH ANNIVERSARY SHOULD NOT FORGET. "IN THIS CLIMATE," LOUIS CONCLUDES, "SIGNATURE OF FRANCO-SOVIET MILITARY AGREEMENT SEEMS PARTICULARLY DESIRABLE FOR THE FRENCH SIDE. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT MR. GISCARD D'ESTAING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 19793 02 OF 02 090958Z

12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

ACDA-07 /067 W

----- 071215

R 071728Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2725

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 19793

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 19793 02 OF 02 090958Z

COULD NOT WAIT FOR THE OFFICIAL SIGNATURE OF THIS DOCUMENT BEFORE ANNOUNCING IT."

5. BY PRESUMABLY USING LOUIS TO EXPRESS ITS REACTION TO GISCARD'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NUCLEAR ACCIDENTS AGREEMENT, MOSCOW WILL HAVE DEFLATED THE ONE POTENTIALLY NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THIS 10TH ANNIVERSARY MIXED COMMISSION MEETING. AS FOR REST QUAI IS FRANK TO ADMIT THAT THE RESULTS WERE AT BEST ROUTINE. THE LONG-EXPECTED PECHENEY ALUMINUM PLANT AGREEMENT WAS FINALLY SIGNED. A NUMBER OF OTHER ECONOMIC UNDERSTANDINGS WERE REACHED, WHICH WE WILL REPORT AND ANALYSE IN SEPTEL. HOWEVER, AT LEAST AS FAR AS QUAI'S POLITICAL ASSESSMENT THESE RESULTS IS CONCERNED, ADJECTIVE USED WAS "UNSPECTACULAR."

6. NOR, ACCORD-
ING TO QUAI, WERE THERE ANY IMPORTANT POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS. GISCARD DID RECEIVE KIRILLIN FOR PRIVATE TALK. HOWEVER, QUAI WORKING LEVEL BELIEVES THIS WAS LARGELY PROTOCOLARY CHAT, PARTLY FOCUSSED ON ECONOMIC THEMES, AND THAT KEY POLITICAL ISSUES, INCLUDING SYMBOLICALLY IMPORTANT QUESTION OF BREZHNEV VISIT TO FRANCE, WERE NOT DISCUSSED.

7. LASTLY, THERE WAS APPARENTLY SOME FRICTION OVER COMMUNIQUE IN WHICH SOVIET SIDE WANTED TO INTRODUCE SUBSTANTIAL PASSAGES ON BREZHNEV'S "THREE CONFERENCE PROPOSAL" AND ON CSCE. FRENCH REFUSED FIRST IN TOTO, AND MANAGED TO REDUCE CSCE TO BRIEF MENTION IN TEXT, AS AGAINST MAJOR LEAD-OFF PARAS SOVIETS DESIRED.

8. COMMENT: WHILE QUAI SOVIET DESK OFFICER WAS CAREFUL

NOT TO PAINT NEGATIVE PICTURE, INSISTING THAT FRENCH-
SOVIET RELATIONS WERE ON "NORMAL TRACK," IMPRESSION
EMERGES FROM THIS AND VARIETY OF CONTACTS AT QUAI AND
ELSEWHERE THAT GISCARD'S ONE-SIDED ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE
NUCLEAR ACCIDENT'S ACCORD WAS STAB AT CREATING ATMOSPHERE
OF AN IMPROVED RELATIONS WHILE, IN FACT, IT REMAINS
AMBIGUOUS AT BEST. SEPTTEL WILL ATTEMPT TO EXAMINE STATE
RELATIONSHIP IN SOMEWHAT GREATER DEPTH.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARIS 19793 02 OF 02 090958Z

RUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS COMMENTS, NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROGRAMS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS19793
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760264-1169
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760784/aaaacvmm.tel
Line Count: 238
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PARIS 19138
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 NOV 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH-SOVIET MIXED COMMISSION MEETING: CONTINUED AMBIGUITY IN FRANCO-SOVIET RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, UR, FR, (GISCARD D'ESTAING, VALERY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006